

Shield-Duck, Terns, and Oystercatchers were also breeding about the Ythan—the Shield-Duck in holes and rabbit-burrows, the others on the shingle, as a rule further up the river.

The Terns were in hundreds about the estuary, hovering hawk-like, and then darting with a splash down into the river after the myriads of young sand-eels, which, with sea-trout below and the birds above, had a poor time. I noticed many young Terns being fed by the parents; so they apparently nest during May. They seem to feed almost from daylight till dark, except during certain stages of the tide, when apparently the young eels are not plentiful; then the birds rest in flocks on the sand-banks, or mussel-beds, exposed by low water—which reminds me that the Eider Duck also seems to feed on the small mussels.

Among other birds I have noticed are Curlew, Red-shanks, Ringed Plover, and Herring-Gulls, and I am informed that the Black-backed Gulls sometimes breed in the neighbourhood.

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### XXXII.—*Obituary.*

#### JOHN ALEXANDER HARVIE-BROWN.

The ranks of Scottish naturalists have suffered a great loss by the death of Dr. Harvie-Brown, who died on July 26 last, at the age of 72. In early life a very active man and a keen sportsman, he travelled widely, but of late years he has been unable to move about and is therefore little known to the younger generation of ornithologists.

Born at Dunipace House in Stirlingshire (where he died) in August 1814, he was the only son of John Harvie-Brown of Quarter and Shirgarton and Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Spottiswoode of Dunipace. He was educated at Merchiston and subsequently at Edinburgh and Cambridge Universities. At Cambridge he became acquainted with Professor Newton, with whom he remained on intimate terms until the death of the latter in 1907.

In 1871 and 1872 he visited, in company with the late

Edward Alston, Norway and the Delta of the Dwina and the White Sea, and in 1875 he accompanied Henry Seebohm to the valley of the Petchora River. A complete account of these journeys are to be found in his 'Travels of a Naturalist in Northern Europe,' published in 1905.

In a small yacht, which he had specially built for the service, he made cruises for many summers accompanied by ornithological and scientific friends, round the coasts of Scotland, visiting the remoter islands, stacks and skerries, many difficult of access, and thus acquired an accurate knowledge of the fauna of these outlying parts of Scotland, of which full use was made in the series of faunal works.

The first volume of the series, "The Fauna of Sutherland," published in 1887, and several succeeding ones were written in collaboration with T. E. Buckley, one with the help of H. A. Macpherson (both of whom predeceased him). Altogether eleven volumes were issued, the last being the "Fauna of the Tweed area," written by Mr. A. H. Evans and published in 1911, who previously in conjunction with Buckley wrote the one relating to the Shetlands.

Harvie-Brown also contributed a large number of papers and short articles to the 'Zoologist,' the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History' subsequently renamed the 'Scottish Naturalist,' of which he was for many years joint-editor, and to the 'Proceedings' of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh and the Natural History Society of Glasgow. In 1873 he was elected a Member of the B. O. U. and contributed to 'The Ibis' a number of papers, a list of the more important of which is here given.

The subject of migration was one which for many years occupied much of his attention and entailed an immense amount of correspondence. It was due partly to his initiation and mainly to his co-operation that a scheme was developed by a committee of the British Association for enlisting the services of the men in charge of lightships and lighthouses to record observations and collect the wings of birds striking the lanterns. The first report of this series, for the autumn of 1879, was published in the 'Zoologist,'

and was compiled with the help of the late John Cordeaux, who was responsible for the portion relating to the east coast of England, while Harvie-Brown undertook the collection of statistics for the east coast of Scotland. Subsequently annual reports were issued separately for eight years, culminating in the admirable digest of the whole prepared by Mr. Eagle Clarke and published in 1912. He was also responsible for the English translation of Gätke's 'Heligoland' and himself prepared the preface to the edition of 1895.

In January 1897 a great calamity occurred to Harvie-Brown, when the greater part of Dunipace House was destroyed by fire and all the valuable collections of birds and eggs, together with those of his friend Col. Feilden, were lost as well as many other valuables. Luckily the library was contained in a separate wing which escaped destruction, but the collections could never be replaced.

Harvie-Brown was J.P. for Stirlingshire and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, and an Hon. Life-Member of the American Ornithologists' Union. In 1912 he received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Aberdeen in recognition of his contributions to the knowledge of the Scottish Fauna. He was also awarded the gold medal of the French Acclimatization Society for his memoir on the Capercaille in Scotland.

Harvie-Brown was a prolific author and his publications extended over a period of nearly fifty years. His first ornithological paper was one published in the 'Zoologist' for 1866 on the birds of his native place, Dunipace in Stirlingshire. The last we have noticed is one on the "Past and Present Distribution of the Fulmar," published partly in the 'Zoologist' and partly in the 'Scottish Naturalist.'

In the list appended are included only the more important papers which appeared in 'The Ibis' and the works separately published:—

Notes from Archangel (with E. R. Alston). *Ibis*, 1873, p. 54.

On the Birds of Transylvania (with C. G. Danford). *Ibis*, 1875, pp. 188, 291, 412.

- On the Birds of the Lower Petchora (with H. Seebohm). *Ibis*, 1876, pp. 105, 215, 289, 434; 1877, p. 392.
- The Capercaille in Scotland. Edinburgh, 1879.
- A Vertebrate Fauna of Sutherland, Caithness and West Cromarty.  
A Vertebrate Fauna of the Outer Hebrides. A Vertebrate Fauna of the Orkney Islands. A Vertebrate Fauna of Argyll and the Inner Hebrides. A Vertebrate Fauna of the Moray Basin. (All with T. E. Buckley.) 6 vols. Edinburgh, 1887-1895.
- A Fauna of the North-west Highlands and Skye (with Rev. H. A. Macpherson). Edinburgh, 1904.
- A Vertebrate Fauna of the Tay Basin and Strathmore. Edinburgh, 1906.
- Reports on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn, 1879-87 (with J. Cordeaux and others). Edinburgh and London, 1880-89.
- Naturalist's Map of Scotland (with J. G. Bartholomew). Edinburgh, 1893.
- On a correct Colour Code or Sortation Code in Colours. Edinburgh, 1899.
- Travels of a Naturalist in Northern Europe. 2 vols. London, 1905. 8vo.

#### BOYD ROBERT HORSBRUGH.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Major (Temporary Lieut.-Col.) Horsbrugh at his home, Tandridge Priory, near Oxted, Surrey, on July 11 last. He was invalided home from the Front at the end of November last year, and in December underwent a severe operation for pressure on the nerves of the eye; though much better in the spring of this year, another operation became necessary, from the effects of which he was unable to make a recovery.

Major Horsbrugh was the son of the late Capt. Charles Bell Horsbrugh of the 2nd Central India Horse, and was born at Goonah, Central India, July 27, 1871. Educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst, he obtained a commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regt. in February 1895. He served with his regiment for two years in Ceylon, afterwards transferring to the Army Service Corps. He saw active service during the rebellion in Sierra Leone in

1898-9, for which he received the medal and clasp. During the South African War he served chiefly with Lord Methuen's column from October 1899 to 1902, when he was invalided home. For his services he received the Queen's and King's medals. In 1908 he retired, but was recalled to the Army Service Corps on the outbreak of the present war; he was employed in England till August 1915, when he went to France with the rank of Temporary Lieut.-Colonel. He was present at the battle of Loos and was mentioned in dispatches.

Horsbrugh's interest in natural history, particularly in birds, dated from his childhood and continued throughout his life. He made observations on the bird-life of the various countries in which he was stationed and in which he travelled. He had a considerable collection of bird-skins, but was perhaps best known for his skill in breeding and handling live birds, and he had a fine collection of Ducks of various species in his grounds at Tandridge. His best-known work is one on the 'Game-birds and Waterfowl of South Africa,' published in 1912 (see 'Ibis,' 1912, p. 670), a most valuable volume mainly designed to meet the requirements of the sportsman in South Africa, but also most useful to the more serious naturalist.

In the preparation of this work he was greatly aided by Sergt. (now Lieut.) C. G. Davies of the Cape Mounted Rifles, not only in the illustrations, which were from his brush, but also for many of the field-notes, though Horsbrugh himself had spent seven years in South Africa and had made very good use of his opportunities for observation.

Horsbrugh's other writings are chiefly to be found in the 'Avicultural Magazine,' to which he was a frequent contributor. He was elected a Member of the Union in 1904.

In April 1902 Horsbrugh married Elizabeth Kearsley, daughter of Chapman Mitchell, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., and niece of the well-known writer and physician Dr. Weir Mitchell, of the same place.

## FREDERIC WILLIAM PROCTOR.

The death on June 13 last of Major Proctor, who was so well known to many of us at the British Ornithologists' Club, will be much regretted by his many friends. Some months previously he had been very ill and it was found necessary to amputate one of his legs, and even this did not save him.

Major Proctor, who was born in 1862, was the son of William Proctor of Torquay. Entering the army, he served for many years in the 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment, and was afterwards attached to the 3rd Batt. Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He eventually retired with the honorary rank of Major.

When the present war broke out, he again offered his services and was appointed Recruiting Officer at Longton, Staffs, and afterwards transferred to the Signalling Depot of the Royal Engineers at Fenny Compton, Bucks. Here he worked until October 1915, when the illness from which he subsequently died began to show itself.

Always deeply interested in birds and their eggs, he began to form a collection of eggs while stationed in India in his early days. He subsequently visited Madeira, Spain, Hungary, and Swedish Lapland in search of rare species. A second visit to southern Spain in company with Mr. S. L. Whymper resulted in the acquisition of many eggs of the large Birds of Prey from the mountains, as well as those of many other birds from the Guadalquivir Valley.

Major Proctor was elected a Member of the Union in 1893, and was also a constant attendant at the meetings of the Club, where from time to time he exhibited interesting specimens of eggs he had collected; but he was not a writer, and published little, being content to make his observations and to build up his collection.

Major Proctor leaves a widow and four children, three of them sons, of whom one is serving in the Army and one in the Navy.

## JOHN MACFARLAN CHARLTON.

Capt. J. M. Charlton, who was killed in action near La Boiselle on July 1 at the age of twenty-five, was an enthusiastic naturalist and taxidermist. He was at Uppingham School from 1907 to 1910, where he was one of the official observers of the ornithological section of the Natural Science Section.

He contributed a good many observations, chiefly connected with bird-life in Northumberland, to 'British Birds' and the 'Zoologist,' and published in the latter journal a more extended account of the Birds of South-east Northumberland.

## ROLAND TRIMEN.

Though he can hardly be considered an ornithologist, Mr. Roland Trimen, F.R.S., whose death we regret to hear took place at Epsom on July 25 last, was a distinguished entomologist. Born in 1840, he entered the Cape Civil Service in 1860, and was appointed Curator of the South African Museum at Cape Town in 1873. During his tenure of that post his chief interest was in the collections of South African insects and especially butterflies, on which he published two important works. During this period he described and figured in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' two remarkable birds, *Coracias spatulatus* (the Racket-tailed Roller) and *Laniarius atrocroceus*; the latter is now generally acknowledged to be only an aberration of *L. atrococcineus*, the handsome Red and Black Shrike found in Bechuanaland.

Trimen retired from his post in South Africa in 1895, and was succeeded by Mr. William L. Selater. In 1910 he was awarded the Darwin Medal of the Royal Society, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1883, for his work on mimicry and allied problems in African Lepidoptera. He was also at one time President of the Entomological Society of London.

## EDWARD ARTHUR BUTLER.

Lieut.-Colonel Edward Arthur Butler, a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union since 1884, died at his residence, Winsford Hall, Stokesby, near Great Yarmouth, on April 16.

Throughout his life—he was in his seventy-third year—he found in ornithology an abiding interest and pleasure.

Born at Coton House, Warwickshire, he was the third son of the late Honble. Charles Lennox Butler, and a grandson of the 13th Lord Dunboync. Educated at Eton, he entered the Army in 1864 as Ensign in the 83rd Regiment, afterwards the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, and retired with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in 1884. Three years at Gibraltar, where he enjoyed the friendship of Howard Irby, gave him his first opportunity of collecting abroad, and were followed by eleven years of service in India, during which he became one of the keenest of the band of ornithologists of which Allan Hume was the head. He contributed to 'Stray Feathers' an account of a visit to the island of Astola in the Persian Gulf, the great breeding-place of *Sterna bergii*, and a series of articles on the Avifauna of Mount Aboo and Northern Guzerat, while his egg-collecting experiences were described in many notes in Hume's 'Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds.' In 1880 he published in the Bombay Gazeteer a "Catalogue of the Birds of the Southern Portion of the Bombay Presidency."

The outbreak of the first Boer War took him to South Africa, where he met with two congenial spirits in Major H. W. Feilden and Capt. S. G. Reid. The three of them devoted as much time as they could to the study of the local avifauna, and collaborated in publishing their notes in the 'Zoologist,' and in contributing to 'The Ibis' an article on the "Variations of Plumage in *Savicola monticola*" (1883, p. 331). After the conclusion of peace his regiment was brought home, and Butler was stationed for



a time in Alderney and subsequently in Belfast until his retirement, when he settled down in the eastern counties for the remainder of his life.

Butler was an extremely good field-ornithologist, with a wonderful "eye for a bird," instantly recognizing any species he had previously met with at the merest glimpse of it, and at almost any distance. He was a very keen sportsman, an untiring walker, and a capital shot. The many beautifully prepared bird-skins which he collected in his time remain in the Natural History Museum. A remarkably little-known owl, *Asio butleri* Hume, perpetuates his name in ornithology, but the Pipit, *Anthus butleri*, which Dr. Sharpe named after him, has since proved to be only the fully-plumaged male of *Anthus chloris*.

He married in 1872 Clara, second daughter of the late General J. T. Francis, Bombay Staff Corps. Her death in 1912 was a great blow to him, and after it he became somewhat of a recluse, busying himself with his garden and his collections, and going about very little. He leaves three sons—Arthur Lennox, until lately Superintendent of Game Preservation in the Sudan, who has inherited his father's interest in ornithology and has been a Member of the Union since 1899, Charles Edward, and Harry Francis.—A. L. B.

### XXXIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

#### *Bangs on the Bahaman Mocking-bird.*

[The smaller Mocking-bird of the Northern Bahamas. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New England Zoölogical Club, vi. 1916, p. 23.]

This bird, formerly considered identical with the widely-spread Mocking-bird of the United States, is here described as a new subspecies under the name *Mimus polyglottos delenificus*. It is found only on the northern island of the Bahama group, its place on the southern islands being taken by *M. p. elegans* Sharpe.